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A STUDY OF THE CLOTHING EXPENDITURES
OF 100 KANSAS FARM FAMILIES

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INTRODUCTION*

In studying the clothing expenditures of a group of people it is necessary to consider their occupation, their mode of living, and the relative importance of clothing in the lives of those people before judging the adequacy of their clothing standards.

Clothing is relatively unimportant to the farming class of people as a whole. Perhaps this is due to the inheritance of the standards which were set by their ancestors who lived when clothing was expensive and had to be worn for a long time. Andrews (1927) says, "The standard of living of any group exerts a formative influence on the lives of the children in that group so that they tend to at least reproduce this standard in the next generation."

The type of clothing worn occasionally by the farmer may be worn every day by the city wage earner. Because of custom and mode of living, the rural woman and members of her family find inexpensive clothing adequate for many occasions for which the urban family requires a more

*The data for this study were obtained from records kept by members of the Farm Bureau Farm and Home Management Association under the direction of the Kansas State College Extension Division.

expensive type. In considering the mode of living among rural and urban people, we may find that the social life among the former is less formal, and that the major satisfactions of farm life do not usually involve a great expenditure for clothing.

In various states studies have been made of the clothing expenditures of farm families, but no detailed study has been made in Kansas. It was desired to know how the Kansas farm family distributes its clothing expenditures; something of the effect which present economic conditions have had upon clothing expenditures of Kansas farm families; and how the clothing expenditures of these families compare with those of other groups.

The purpose of this study was, then:

1. To secure information concerning the clothing expenditures of Kansas farm families in 1932.
2. To learn the general character of the variation in expenditures with income, season, size of the family and the age and sex of its members.
3. To determine the deviation of the average clothing expenditures from certain minimum clothing standards which have been set up in other studies.
4. To determine the difference between clothing expenditures for the years 1932, 1931, and 1924.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The most extensive study of expenditures of farm families was made by Kirkpatrick (1926) by means of a survey of 2,886 white farm families of selected localities in eleven states, 406 families of which were located in Kansas. He found that the average yearly expenditure for clothing per family, for all the families studied, was \$234.90, or 14.7 per cent of the average value of all goods used. The families which he studied in Kansas consisted of an average of 4.4 members with an average clothing expenditure of \$200.90, which was 13.5 per cent of all goods used. This was an average expenditure of \$45.66 per person, or 3.06 per cent of the total expenditures for home living.

Canon (1931) made a study of the finances of 195 farm families in Tompkins County, New York, in 1927 - 28, the data for which were obtained from a survey conducted by the State College of Home Economics at Cornell University. She found that the average expenditure for clothing for an average family of 3.6 persons, was \$163 or 20 per cent of the average household expenses. Of the various factors influencing the money expenditure for family clothing, she found that cash receipts were the most important factor with the number dependent next in importance.

Dickens (1931) reported a study of clothing and house linen expenditures of 99 rural families of Mississippi during 1928-29, made by the Division of Home Economics of the Agricultural Experiment Station by means of the account book method. She found that the average cost of clothing per family was \$203.94, which was 13.7 per cent of the cost of home living expenditures. Mississippi families spent about one-half of their clothing costs for outer garments and about one-third for footwear. With an increase in size of family, husbands' and wives' clothing expenditures showed a decrease and children's an increase. The decrease was greater for the wives than for the husbands. Dickens found that clothing expenditures increased with increased education of both husband and wife, although to greater extent with that of the wife.

Lively (1930) made a study of the family living expenditures on Ohio farms in 1926-28. This study was based upon account book records which had been kept by 187 families under the supervision of the home management specialists and the county extension agents of the Agricultural Extension Department of Ohio State University. The average clothing expenditure per family was \$197, which was 14 per cent of the total living expenditures.

In a study of farm standards of living in Faulkner County, Arkansas, based upon a survey of 385 families, it was found that the annual cost of clothing per family of 5.5 persons was \$135 or 12.4 per cent of the total expenditures for home living, (McCormick, 1932).

Rankin (1930) studied the cost of clothing for the Nebraska farm family and found that the average clothing expenditure was \$197 for a family of 4 persons. This made an average of \$49 per person, of which \$28 was spent for outerwear, \$13 for footwear, \$5 for underwear, and \$3 for accessories. In comparing farm and city groups, Rankin found that farm men and boys under 21 spent about 15 per cent less, each, than the city men and boys of the same age. The cost of clothing farm girls was much less than for city girls up to 21 years, but the farm wives spent a little more than the wives of city wage earners and low-salaried men. At the higher expenditure levels there was a greater tendency for the city to outspend the country for clothing, except in the case of the wives.

Hayball and Thomas (1931) made an analysis of data secured from a study of the income and expenditures of farm families in Summit County, Utah. The data for this study were obtained from records of expenditures of 51 families. They found that the average clothing expenditure was \$217.59.

which was 13.1 per cent of the total home living cost. Of the amount spent for clothing the farm operator spent 22.3 per cent, the home maker, 21 per cent, and the children, 56.7 per cent.

Williams and Lindsey (1931) made a report of the Hinds County Farm and Home Economics Conference. At this conference a committee worked out a clothing budget which should clothe a family of five. The total clothing expenditures amounted to \$178.45, of which about 3 per cent was for headwear, 50 per cent for outerwear, 12 per cent for underwear, 26 per cent for footwear, and 9 per cent for miscellaneous items of clothing.

A minimum clothing budget was issued jointly by the Charity Organization Society of New York, the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and the United Hebrew Charities of New York (1925). The purpose of this budget was to serve as a guide in making adequate clothing allowances both for dependent families and in estimating a minimum for self-supporting families. The figures used were based on New York City prices in 1923 and 1924. The lists of articles of clothing needed were formulated after a careful study of the report from the Bureau of Labor, of clothing purchased in working men's families; of the clothing lists of other organizations; and of lists

made by individual families.

Three clothing schedules were prepared to allow for the varying needs of different families; the A schedule covered bare essentials; the B schedule was intended for families accustomed to or educated to appreciate a standard a little better than A and more in accordance with custom; the C schedule contained the same articles of clothing as B, but of better quality. The differences in these schedules may be noted from the allowance made for the working man; in the A schedule his yearly clothing allowance was \$62.15, in the B schedule, \$67.50, and in the C schedule, \$134.62.

Kyrk (1933) qualifies the generalization usually made that the percentage spent for clothing increases as the income increases. She says that if allowance is made for the variations in the size of families and the age of their children, it will be found that an increase was not found in the 12,096 families studied by the Bureau of Labor in 1918-19; that the increase in the number and age of children in the higher income groups was responsible for the relative increase in the total clothing cost per family; that the percentages expended for the clothing of the younger children clearly tended to decline, and the only indication of a tendency to rise was in the proportion spent for the clothing of the wife and older daughters at the lower income levels.

Hystrom (1929) points out that the percentages expended for clothing vary with the size of the family, and that within the same income group there is generally a direct correlation between the amount expended for clothing and the size of the family. He says that the percentage expended for clothing also varies slightly according to occupations. Within the same income groups, farmer's families spent slightly less than urban groups made up of industrial and low-salaried families but that the difference was not great.

Waite (1928) says that when expenditures of farm families are expressed in percentages they appear approximately the same as those exhibited in the urban studies; that as the income increases, much the same tendencies are exhibited; but goods which are devoted to display increase much less rapidly for farm people than for city folk. He says that the expenditure for clothing will increase at a much less rapid rate under rural conditions than under urban conditions.

In a comparison of living standards of farm and city families in Minnesota, Zimmerman (1929) found that the average expenditure per year by the farm families for clothing was \$60 per adult unit, as compared with \$99 by the city families. He points out that the type of clothing that the farmer and the laborer wear only a few hours each

and: Day, June, July, August, Sept.,
 October, November, December, January, February,
 and March.

and considering the fact that the above mentioned are
 the principal months of the year, in the present case provided the
 same persons. It would seem that the present work should
 be sufficient and that there should be no need for the
 survey which will be made entirely upon the basis of the
 home maker for information.

Even the amount of the most detailed records,
 detailed records were provided to provide information for
 the present study. The present study, a record of
 the life received, and the amount of the life. The
 difference was not only the fact that the present study was
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articles, and upon a 1932 price list secured from two chain stores.

Home living expenditures included food, clothing, shelter, household operating expense, home improvement, personal care, health, recreation, development, gifts, and insurance. Clothing expenditures included wearing apparel, and upkeep and clothing repair.

The total cash expenditures for home living and the total family income for these families were secured from the 1932 account book summary prepared by the Home Economics Extension Department. Similar information, as well as the total clothing expenditures of one hundred families in 1931, were obtained from the same source. About seventy-five per cent of the accounts studied were kept by the same families in both years. Accounts approximating the clothing expenditures of the remaining twenty-five per cent in 1932, were substituted in 1931.

The average expenditure for clothing and for home living per family in 1924 was obtained from a study made by Kirkpatrick (1926) of the expenditures of farm families in eleven states, including Kansas.

The value of the farmer's clothing dollar in 1932, 1931, and 1924 was obtained from index numbers received from the United States Department of Agriculture. These index numbers

were divided into 100 in order to show the differences based on how much the dollar would buy. This was done because prices of various goods changed over a period of time, and in order to find the dollar value of certain goods at any particular time it is necessary to find the proportion which these goods are of goods of 1913-1914 which were taken as 100, when the dollar was worth 100 per cent.

RESULTS

For the entire group studied the following averages were calculated: income, size of family, age of children, total expenditure for home living, clothing expenditures per family and per person, and the proportion of home living expenditures represented by each; clothing expenditures per person according to age and sex; the cost of each in relation to the husband's clothing expenditures; and the expenditure for clothing per family in the different seasons.

For twenty-five families the amounts spent by the individual family members for housing, education, recreation, clothing, and miscellaneous items of clothing were calculated. Miscellaneous items included for men and boys such articles as overcoats, suits, underclothing, jackets, gloves, and ties. For women and girls such articles as

clothes, hair cuts, shoes, hats, collars, underclothes, bags, and costume jewelry.

The one hundred families studied were divided into the following income groups: those with income below \$100, \$100 to \$150, \$150 to \$200, and those over \$200. The cost of the following was calculated: The cost of families represented; average size of family; average age of children; average total expenditures per year living; average clothing expenditures per family and per person; the per cent represented in clothing of total living expenditures; the average clothing expenditures per person; adults, and children in each group and the per cent represented by each; the average annual cost per person for family and the relation of the total clothing expenditures at each income level.

The Bureau is average clothing expenditures per family from 1906 to 1912 and from 1921 to 1928 was calculated. The expenditures for each year calculated in the same way as the actual value of the expenditures. The difference is that of family to 1912, 1921, and 1928 was taken into account in finding the value of the clothing expenditures per person in each year and calculating the per cent of the average of persons comprising the 1912 family studied. With the two

Further, difference in size of family, and changing dollar value, eliminated, the difference in value of domestic expenditures was calculated.

The proportion of total living expenditures in 1940, 1951, and 1962 were determined.

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The average monthly expenditures per family and per person at different income levels as well as for the entire group studied is shown in Table 1. The average income and the number of families in each group, the size of family, and the average expenditures per family per all four years, and the average size of living expenditures by standard is indicated.

Family Income

For the entire group studied the average income was \$10,700. Of 100 families, there were 16 with income below \$500, with an average income of \$250.00; 17 with income from \$500 to \$1,000, with an average income of \$750.00; 20 with income between \$1,000 and \$2,000, with an average of \$1,500.00; and 7 with income over \$2,000, with an average of \$3,500.00. Figure 1 is a graphic presentation of the distribution of income among these families. The above figures

Table 1. Average Clothing Expenditures of 100 Kansas Farm Families at Different Income Levels with the Per Cent of Home Living Expenditures Represented by Clothing.

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969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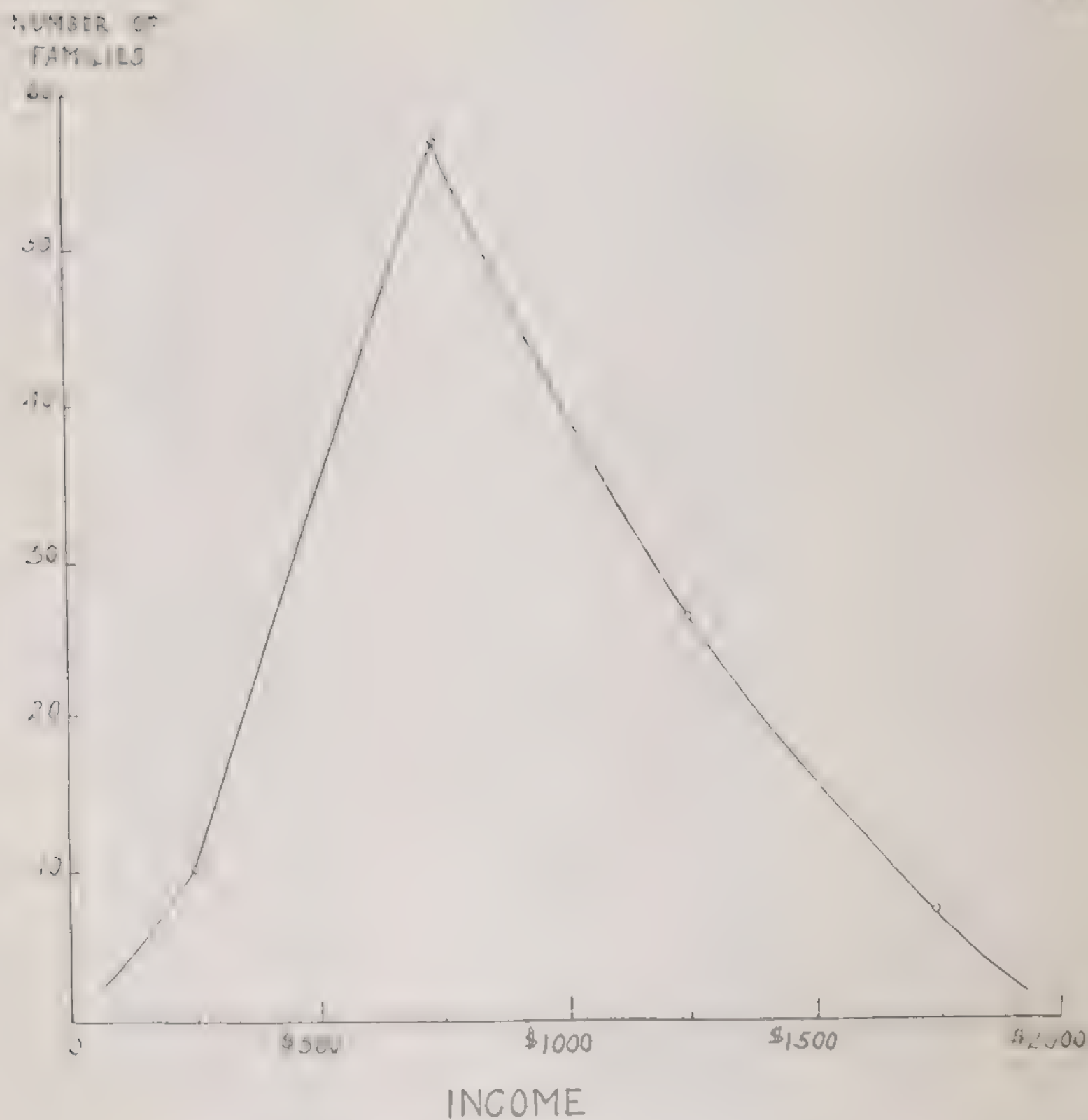


FIGURE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AMONG 100
KANSAS FARM FAMILIES

show that 17 per cent of the families had a yearly income of less than \$1000.

Composition of the Family

There was an average of 3.2 members in these families, with children of an average age of 10 years. On the lowest income level there was an average of 3.1 members per family and the average age of children was 8 years. On the second income level the average family membership was 3.5, with the average age of children 9.8 years. On the third income level there was an average of 3.7 members, with children's age averaging 11.3 years. On the highest income level the average was 3.9 members, with the average age of children 9.8 years. This indicates that below the \$1000 level as income increased the size of the family increased. Above the \$1000 level the size of the family began to decrease. Also as income increased the age of the children increased up to the highest income level when they began to show a decrease. A probable explanation for this is that on the lower income levels the parents were poorer parents and consequently had fewer and younger children. On the highest income level the parents were generally older and the older children had less time to work or to study.

Expenditure of Income Used for Home Living

The average total expenditures for home living per family for all six groups was \$200.20, per head on the lowest income level it was \$12.00; on the second level \$20.10; on the third level \$27.00; and on the highest income level it was \$30.00. This indicates that as income increased not only did the actual expenditures for home living increase but the proportion of income spent for home living about the same tendency being the first level. On the lowest income level 60 per cent of the income was spent for home living; on the second, 40 per cent; on the third, 30 per cent; and on the highest income level 27 per cent.

Clothing Expenditure for Family

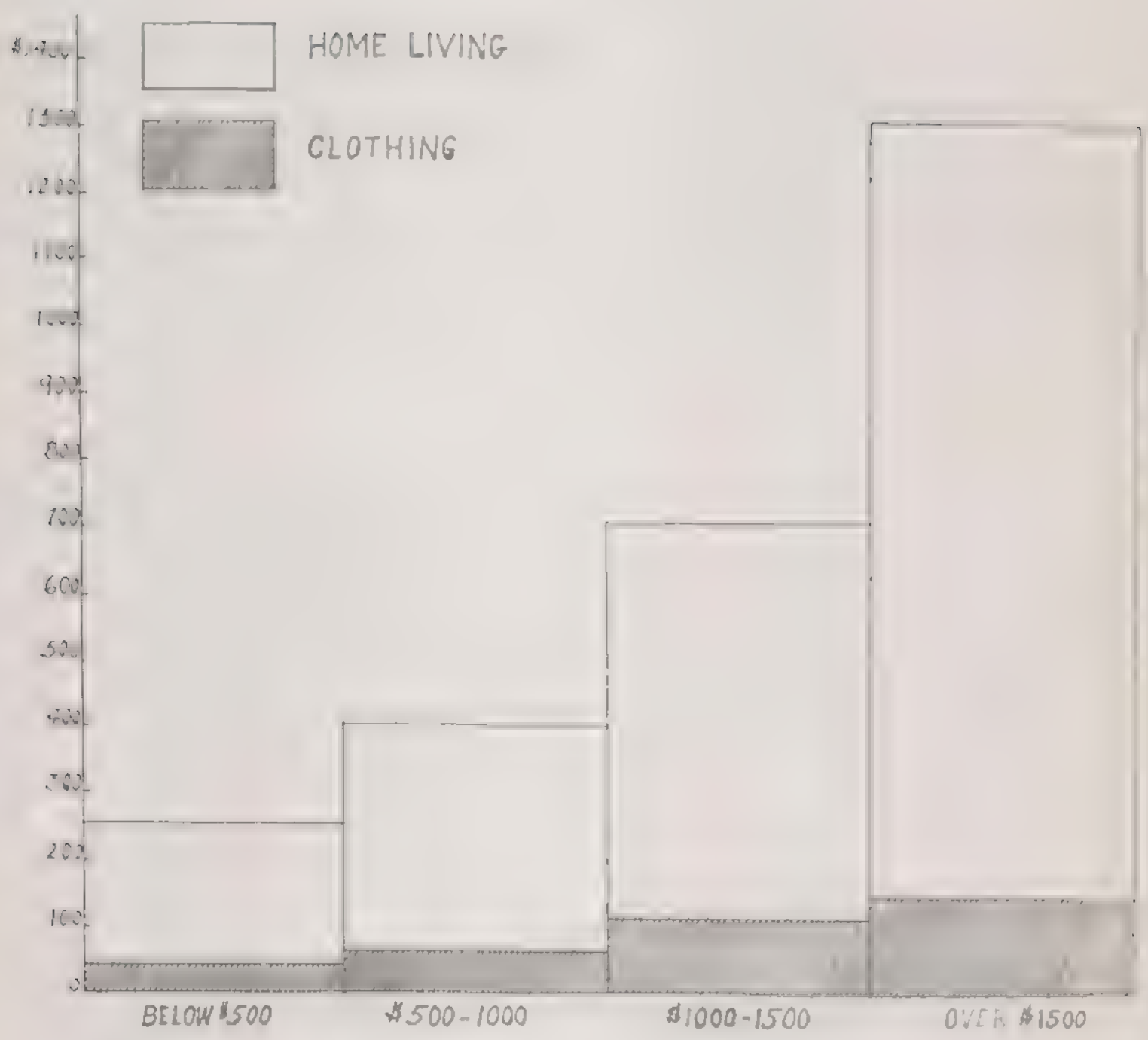
For the entire group the average family clothing expenditure was \$70.00, which is 35.0 per cent of the total expenditures for home living. Studies which have been made of the expenditures of some families in other cities show approximately the same proportion spent for clothing. HARRISON (1900) found that 2,400 families in eleven different states spent an average of 34.9 per cent of their total home living expenditures for clothing. The lowest families which he studied averaged 11.5 per cent of total

house living for clothing. Simmons (1931) found that a group of Mississippi farm families spent 12.7 per cent of their house living on clothing. Other families studied by Ingalls and Brown (1931) show a clothing expenditure of 14.1 per cent of their house living. Clothing expenditures of Ohio families studied by Lively (1930) amounted to 14 per cent of their house living expenditures. Michigan families studied by Kewenich (1930) spent an average of 13.4 per cent on clothing. Clothing expenditures of New York farm families studied by Brown (1931) amounted to 10 per cent of their total expenditures for house living.

RELATION OF INCOME TO CLOTHING EXPENDITURES

At the lowest income level the average cost of clothing per family was \$10.16, which is 14.36 per cent of the total expenditure for house living; at the second income level it was \$12.11, or 15.72 per cent; at the third level, \$130.70, or 11.10 per cent; and at the highest income level, \$100.00, or 10.00 per cent. This shows that as income increased the actual expenditure for clothing increased, but the proportion of house living spent for clothing decreased, though not constantly. The greatest proportion spent for clothing was in the lowest income group and the least proportion was in the highest income group. Figure 1 shows in graphic

AMOUNT
EXPENDED



INCOME LEVEL

FIGURE 2

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY FOR
CLOTHING AND HOME LIVING AT
DIFFERENT INCOME LEVELS

From the previous expenditure per family the distribution had been living at different income levels. And any family and from this the large proportion spent per unit of the lowest income level as compared with the small proportion spent on the highest level.

Myrdal (1930) says, "The percentage of total expenditure on clothing, according to Engel, tends to be roughly approximately the same regardless of the amount of income. Before studies of family income indicate that there is considerable variation with changes in income and other conditions. . . . As income increases from families spend from 10 per cent to 17 per cent and industrial families from 10 per cent to 10.4 per cent for clothing. . . . The highest percentages are expended by people enjoying a relatively well-to-do standard of living. As income rises and income possible still higher standards of living the percentages expended for clothing gradually declines." Myrdal (1930) continues the same line with the saying, "The hypothesis which is advanced that in the lowest economic levels an increase in income causes proportionate increases in both food and clothing; with further increases the proportion spent for food begins to decline and for clothing to increase; with a rise still slower, expenditures on clothing also shows tendency to decline to very poor

with the literature in income.¹ Since even the highest incomes of this group could hardly be said to provide a standard of living beyond a "modestly well-to-do standard", as Hyman calls it, it would seem that that theory could not be applied to this case.

A possible explanation for the low proportion spent for clothing on the high income level as compared with the high proportion on the low income level is that 1932 being a year of depression, all poor families spent as little as possible for clothing regardless of income. If the income was small, as it was on the lowest income level, then the proportion spent for clothing would be high.

On the second level the size of the family increased very little, showing that those families would have to buy very little more in the way of clothing than the families of lower income. But because they had more income than the first group, the proportion spent for clothing was small. In the third income group the size of the family increased decidedly, indicating that these families had to spend a great deal more for clothing. Since their income did not increase proportionately, the proportion spent for clothing was large. In the last group there was a decrease in size of family as well as an increase in income. If these families were spending very little more than was necessary

for clothing, the expenditure for clothing would naturally be small. Poor people are less conservative in regard to clothing than rich people because, as Smith (1980) says, they "find the pleasure of having an appearance less than other people." Consequently in times of deprivation they can very easily get along on a minimum amount of clothing and still be fairly comfortable.

If allowance is made for the variation in size of family it may be seen that as income rises the percentage spent for clothing steadily declines. The cost of clothing per person on the lowest income level was \$10.00, which was 6 per cent of the total expenditure for food living on the lowest level. It was \$11.00, which is 6 per cent, on the third level, \$16.00, or 5.2 per cent, and on the highest level, \$20.00, or 4.2 per cent of total living expenditures. The average cost of clothing per person for all groups was \$15.00 or 5.2 per cent of the total expenditures for food living.

The above percentages indicate that the spending on purchases of food for people did not "keep pace" with the increase in income, not only on the highest income level, but on all levels. Smith (1980) says, "People of low and other incomes spend the same sort of time as those of high

neighbors. . . . This is particularly true of the parts of consumption which come under the heading of clothes. For these people are faced in contact with the expensive clothing standards of the city people. Consequently they tend to dress more expensively than their neighbors, regardless of income.

Clothing Expenditures for Family Members

Table 2 shows the average clothing expenditures of husbands, wives, and children of 105 lowest rent families in different income levels. Figure 3 presents these facts graphically. For the entire group, the husbands spent an average of \$18.31 for clothing, which is 34.3 per cent of the total clothing expenditures per family. The wives spent an average of \$10.41, or 24.3 per cent of the total family clothing costs. The clothing expenditures for children averaged \$5.28, or 10.5 per cent of the family clothing expenditures.

Other studies, which have been made of clothing expenditures of rent families, show very little similarity in the distribution of clothing expenditures among husbands, wives, and children, but this may be due to the differences in size of family of the groups studied. Women's share of

Table 3. Average clothing expenditures of husbands, wives, and children at different income levels. 100 families, 1908 - 1910.

Income Group	Number of families	Average size of family	Average clothing expenditure for husbands	Average clothing expenditure for wives	Average clothing expenditure for children
Below \$500	10	3.1	\$1.40	\$1.10	\$1.00
\$500 - \$1,000	17	3.3	\$1.70	\$1.17	\$1.07
\$1,000 - \$1,500	16	4.7	\$1.70	\$1.11	\$1.10
Over \$1,500	7	4.1	\$2.00	\$1.33	\$1.04
All	100	3.9	\$1.61	\$1.16	\$1.06

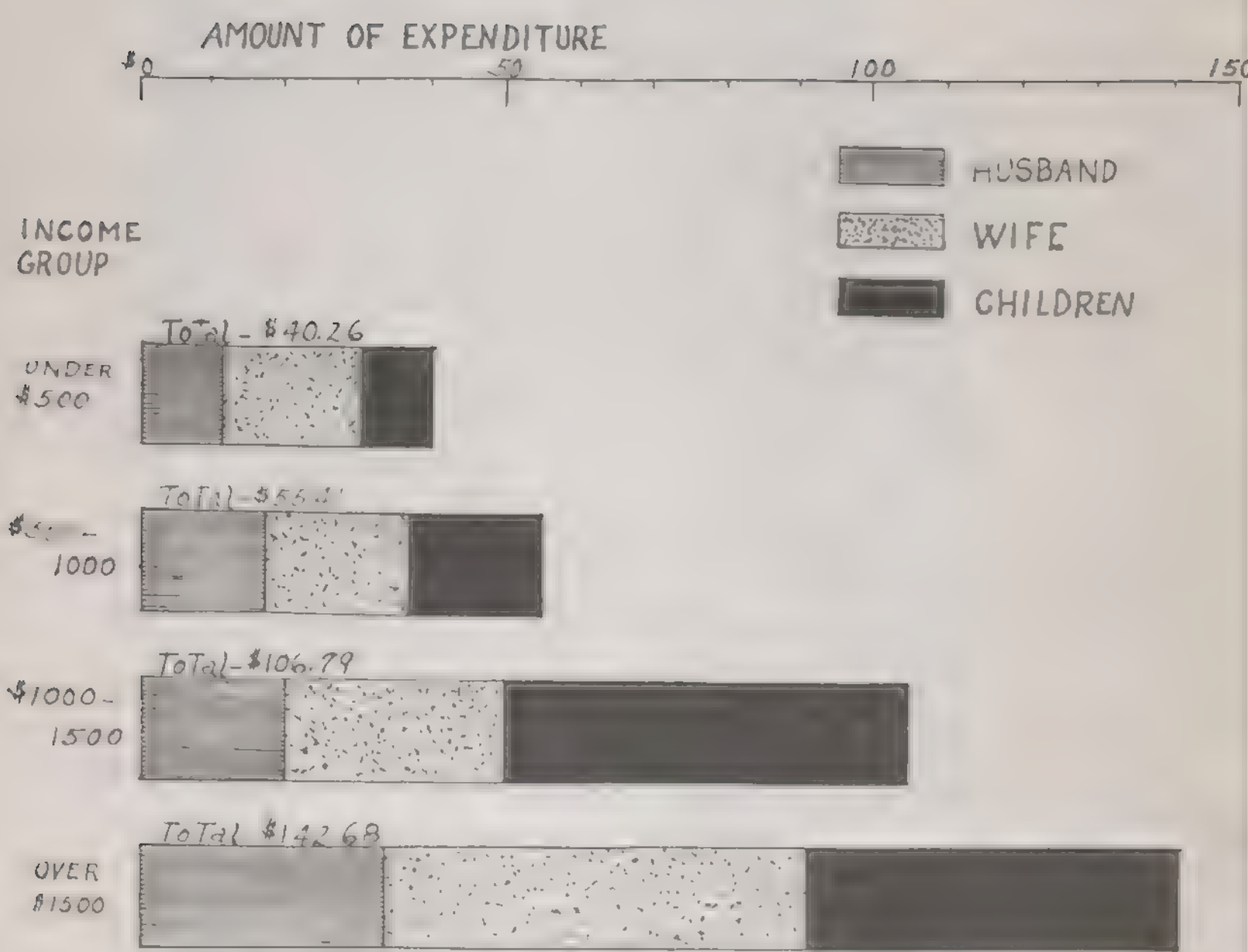


FIGURE 3
RELATIVE AMOUNTS EXPENDED FOR
CLOTHING FOR HUSBAND, WIFE, AND
CHILDREN AS INCOME RISES

New York poor families (1931) indicates that the average husband's clothing expenditures amounted to 31 per cent of the total family clothing expenditures; the wife's clothing expenditures, 33 per cent; and the clothing expenditures for children, 36 per cent of the total. The average size of New York's families was 3.3 persons, which is not slightly smaller than the average families of 3.0 persons. Also it is noted that the average clothing expenditures for the children of the New York families was not slightly smaller than the clothing expenditures of the average poor children.

The findings of the National Food Families studied by Lavin (1940) showed 38 per cent of the family clothing expenditures; the wife spent 33 per cent; and 29 per cent was spent for children. The average size of the National families was 4 persons, which is very little larger than the average families. Also, the expenditures for the children's clothing was not very little larger for the National Food families than the study of Lavin.

The study which was made by Hildegarde (1943), indicates that the husbands spent 33 per cent of the total clothing expenditures; the wife 33 per cent; and the children 34 per cent. This shows a still larger proportion spent for children's clothing than was shown in either of the studies mentioned above. Also, the families

which first-class families were somewhat larger, consisting of 4.4 persons.

The total family spending studied by Lipsett and Wilson (1951) spent 12 per cent of the family clothing expenditures on the husband, 21 per cent on the wives, and 67 per cent of it was spent for children's clothing. This shows a still greater proportion spent for the children than was spent in the other social class divisions, but again, these families, which consisted of an average of 6 persons, were a great deal larger than the families of other classes.

The income of the middle-class first families studied by Wilson (1951) spent 17 per cent of the family clothing expenditures; the wives spent 11 per cent; and 24 per cent of the total clothing expenditures per family were spent for children. Considering that the average size of these middle-class families was 5.71 persons, it would be expected that the proportion spent for the children's clothing would be high. We would conclude from the same experience that the size of the family strongly affects the distribution of clothing expenditures among the family members.

At the lowest income level, the income of second class families spent 11.20, or 15.2 per cent of the family clothing expenditures; on the second income level, 20.30, or

\$1.1 per cent; on the third level, \$1.00, or 10.0 per cent; and on the highest level, \$0.80, which is 8.0 per cent of the total clothing expenditures per family.

The clothing expenditures for the girls on the lowest income level was \$11.00, or 11.0 per cent of family clothing expenditures; on the second income level, \$12.00, or 12.0 per cent; on the third level, \$13.00, or 13.0 per cent; and on the highest income level, \$14.00, or 14.0 per cent of the total family clothing expenditures.

On the lowest income level the mother's clothing expenditures amounted to \$7.00, or 7.0 per cent of the family clothing cost; on the second level, \$10.00, or 10.0 per cent; on the third level, \$11.00, or 11.0 per cent; and on the highest income level, \$12.00, or 12.0 per cent of the total clothing expenditures per family.

The above percentages reveal the fact that as income increased the proportion of the total clothing expenditures for men actually decreased and the proportion spent for children steadily increased up to the highest income level when the proportion spent for men again showed a marked decrease. It may be observed that on this last level the share of the family income a mother receives, 33.3 per cent, coupled with the increase in income, is greater than

responsible for the sudden change in the proportion spent by wives and children. Another factor which would contribute to this change is the age of the children. On the third income level a great many of the children were at the age where they demanded more in the way of clothing, mainly because of their broader social interests. On a limited income, the mother may deny herself clothing in order to fulfill the desires of the children. On the highest income level, the average age of the children dropped down considerably, which would mean that the demands for clothing would not be so great for those children.

It is interesting to note the flexibility of the wife's clothing expenditures as income, size of family, and ages of children increase. On every income level the wife's clothing expenditures exceeded those of the husband, but as the size of the family and ages of children increased or decreased, it was the wife's expenditures which showed the greatest change. Nystrom (1939) also found this to be true. He says, "The percentage of expense for clothing for wives shows more irregularities in relation to the amount of income than that of any other member of the family." However, Nystrom says that among industrial and business classes the percentage of expense for wives is at all levels

lower than the expense for husbands. This does not hold true in this study nor does it hold true in four of the other studies which have been mentioned above, each of which show that the wives spent more than the husbands in the particular farm group studied.

Clothing Expenditures by Age and Sex

The average clothing expenditures per person by age and sex groups are given in Table 3 and shown graphically in Figure 4. The relative costs of the various groups in terms of the average costs for husbands are also shown.

From Table 3 it may be observed that daughters over 16 years of age spent 1.94 times as much as the husbands, and the clothing expenditures of sons over 16 years of age were 1.52 times that of the husbands, indicating that at those ages, for both boys and girls, clothing cost more than at any other time. The wives' clothing expenditure, which was 1.31 times that of the husbands, came next in importance. The daughters, 11 to 15 years of age, spent slightly more than the sons of the same age, who spent practically the same amount as spent by the husbands. Below eleven years of age, the sons spent more than the daughters of the same age. From 6 to 10 years the relative expenditure of the sons was 69.3, but slightly more than the 67.4 representing the

Table 3. Average Clothing Expenditure per Person by Age and Sex Groups and the Relative Cost of Each Group.
100 Families, Kansas - 1932.

Sex Group	Number of Individuals	Average Cost of Clothing	Relative Cost with Husband = 100	Age Group	Number of Individuals	Average Cost of Clothing	Relative Cost with Husband = 100
Husband	100	13.31	100	Wife	100	12.31	100.5
Sons				Daughters			
Over 16	52	25.41	191.0	Over 16	10	37.45	193.9
11-15 yrs.	21	10.40	100.5	11-15 yrs.	16	20.01	106.8
6-10 yrs.	23	13.49	69.3	6-10 yrs.	20	13.02	67.4
5 yrs. less	25	6.54	44.2	5 yrs. less	25	6.80	35.2

relative amount spent by the daughters of the same age.

Under 5 years of age the relative clothing expenditures of the sons was 44.2, which is considerably larger than the 35.2 representing the relative clothing expenditures of the daughters under 5 years.

The relative clothing expenditures of the children of this group show that on the lowest age levels the boys' clothing expenditures were greater than the girls', but as age increased the girls' clothing expenditures increased

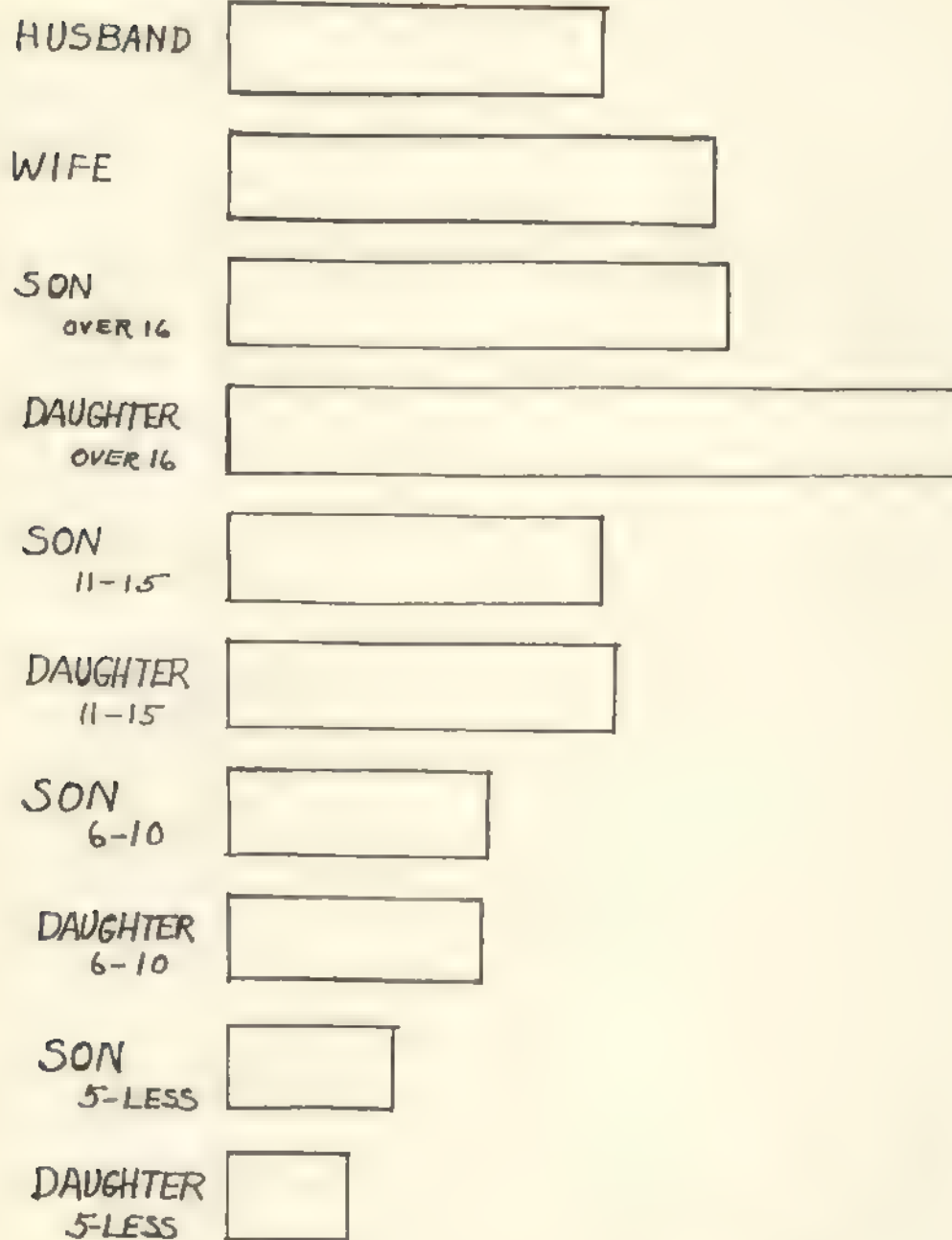
MEMBER OF
FAMILY

FIGURE 4
SCALE OF EXPENDITURE FOR CLOTHING
WITH AVERAGE AMOUNT EXPENDED
FOR HUSBAND AS BASE

more rapidly so that beyond 11 years they exceeded the boys' clothing expenditures.

The study made by Birnbaum (1956) also reveals that clothing expenditures for girls tend to increase more rapidly with age than those of the boys. The same tendency was noted in the study made in Utah by Raybell and Thomas (1950). They found that the boys' clothing expenditures exceeded those of the girls below 12 years of age, but from 12 to 20 the girls' expenditures exceeded the boys'. The study made in Nebraska by Madril (1930) shows that below 12 years the clothing expenditures for boys were greater than those for girls, but from 12 to 21 years the girls' expenditures amounted to considerably more. Nichols (1931) found that among dissatisfied farm families the clothing expenditures for girls and boys below 12 years of age were about the same, from 12 to 17 the girls' clothing expenditures were a great deal more than those of the boys, but from 18 to 25 the boys' expenditures again exceeded those of the girls.

The study made by Cowles (1932) among industrial families shows that below 12 years of age the boys' and girls' clothing expenditures are practically the same, but above 12 years the girls' clothing expenditures exceed those of the boys.

Each of the above mentioned studies show that the average costs of clothing for both sons and daughters of the advanced age groups are considerably above the averages for the husbands and wives of the families.

Expenditures for Different Types of Clothing

The average clothing expenditures of various family members for different types of clothing are given in Table 4 and represented graphically in Figure 5. The total amount spent by the family members for clothing does not agree with that indicated in Table 1, due to the fact that these figures are based upon the clothing expenditures of 75 families rather than 100.

Analysis of the distribution of these expenditures shows that of the various family members the daughters over 16 years of age spent more for headwear, outerwear, and miscellaneous items of clothing than any other family member, and the wives spent the most for underwear and footwear.

The proportion spent on headwear for women and girls increased with age up to 16 years, when it decreased slightly. The proportion then increased for the wives. The proportion spent for headwear for men and boys regularly increased with age.

Table 4. Average Clothing Expenditures for Different Types of Clothing by Age and Sex Groups Expressed in Dollars and Per Cent of Total Clothing Costs.
75 Families, 1926-1933.

Age and Sex Groups	Number of Persons	Estimated Time in Hours for									
		Washing	Combing	Showering	Shaving	Stitching	Ironing	Housework	Traveling	Shopping	Other
Infants	70	1.15:0.1:1.40:1.0:1.50:7.0:1.00:1.0:1.53:1.5:1.0:1.0									
Girls	70	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
Boys	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
11-15	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
16-20	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
21-25	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
26-30	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
31-35	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
36-40	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
41-45	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
46-50	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
51-55	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
56-60	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
61-65	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
66-70	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
71-75	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
76-80	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
81-85	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
86-90	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
91-95	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									
96-100	10	1.00:0.5:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0:1.0									

AMOUNT
EXPENDED

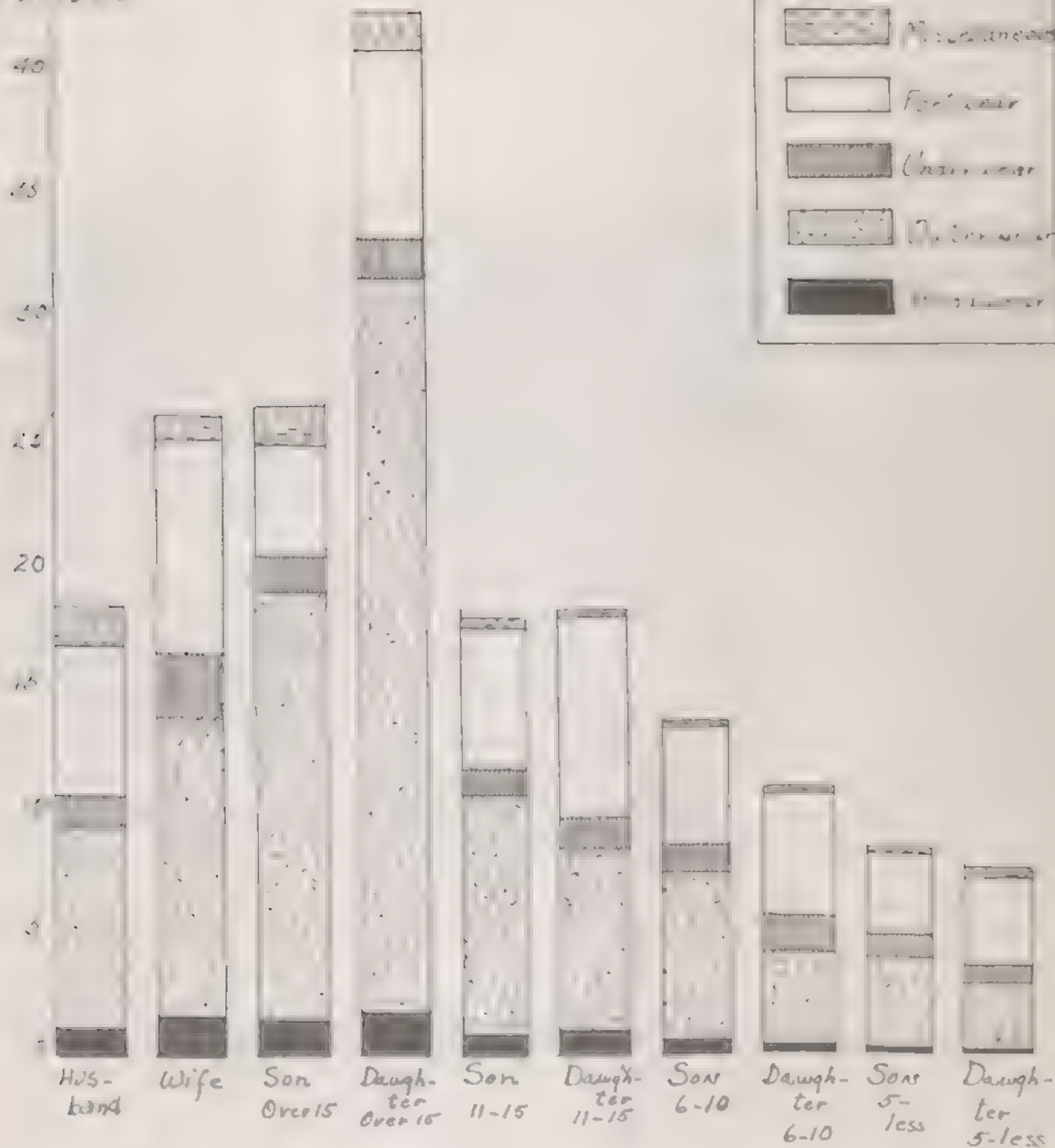


FIGURE 5
AMOUNTS SPENT BY VARIOUS FAMILY
MEMBERS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES
OF CLOTHING

The proportion spent for outer garments for boys increased regularly with age. With the exception of girls 5 years and under, the proportion devoted to outer garments for girls also increased regularly with age. For women and girls outerwear consisted mainly of dresses and aprons or the material from which these articles were to be made. For men and boys outerwear consisted mostly of overalls, jackets, and shirts.

Excepting for girls of 6 to 10 years, the proportion spent for under garments decreased with age for all groups of sons and daughters. The proportion spent by husbands and wives for under garments showed an increase over that of the more advanced age groups of the children. In general the women and girls spent more for underwear than did the men and boys.

The children below 16 years of age spent a greater proportion on footwear than those over 16 years. This is perhaps because the younger children, being in school, required more footwear and also because younger children are harder on footwear than older children. The proportion for footwear for boys and girls 5 years and under was about the same, for boys over 5 years, less than for girls over 5 years.

With the exception of the girls 11 to 15 years of age the proportion devoted to miscellaneous items of clothing remained practically the same for women and girls of the different age groups. Excepting for the boys 11 to 15 years of age the proportion spent for miscellaneous clothing by men and boys of the different age groups increased regularly with age.

The same general trends in distribution of clothing expenditures among the different types of garments for the various family members, as outlined above, were exhibited in Dickens' study of clothing expenditures of Mississippi farm families (1931).

Kirkpatrick (1929) found that for farm families, outer garments absorbed the major portion of the clothing expenditures of both sexes. He also found that footwear was next in importance, undergarments next, with headwear, accessories, and upkeep and repair following. He points out that the proportion of the total clothing expenditures going for outer garments increased with the advancing ages of both sons and daughters. Kirkpatrick says that sons 15 to 24 years of age appear to purchase caps, suits of clothes, overcoats, dress shirts, and all the articles of a "dress up" nature, more frequently than do the husbands and fathers, and that these are purchased at a higher price per article.

This fact, he says, contributes to the higher cost of clothing for sons 19 to 24 years of age. He also found that daughters 19 to 24 years of age purchase the articles of a "dress up" type more frequently and at higher costs than do the wives and mothers.

Rankin (1935) found that about two-thirds of the clothing costs of Nebraska farm families were spent for outerwear, about one-fourth for footwear, and the rest was divided between under garments and accessories.

These Kansas farm families, like those of Mississippi, spent about one-half of their clothing cost for outer garments and about one-third for footwear, with the rest divided between underwear, headwear, and miscellaneous items.

Clothing Expenditures and Minimum Budgets Compared

In a study made by Williams and Lindsey in Mississippi, (1931), a minimum clothing budget was worked out for a family consisting of husband and wife, daughter 16 years of age, son 11 years of age, and a small child. The total clothing expenditures in this budget amounted to \$178.45, of which about 5 per cent was for headwear, 50 per cent for outerwear, 18 per cent for underwear, 25 per cent for footwear, and 2 per cent for miscellaneous items of clothing. The

proportions allowed for outerwear, footwear and headwear are but slightly lower, and the proportions allowed for underwear and miscellaneous items are but slightly higher than was found among the Kansas families studied.

In order to compare the actual expenditure of the Kansas families with the expenditures which have been set up in this minimum budget it is necessary to make allowances for the difference in size of family and the difference in dollar value in 1931, when this budget was planned, and 1932. The ages of the children set up in this budget would average about 10 years, which was the average age of the Kansas farm children, so no allowance would have to be made for difference in children's ages.

Since this budget was planned for a family of five, the clothing expenditures per person would have been \$35.69. For a family of 3.9 persons, which was the average size of the Kansas families studied, the clothing expenditures would have amounted to \$159.19. The actual value of this amount, with the dollar in 1931 valued at \$0.70, would have been \$27.43. In this study the total clothing expenditure per family of 3.9 persons was found to be \$75.56, or actually \$36.31, with allowance made for the changing value of the dollar. These figures indicate that the total clothing expenditures per Kansas farm family actually fell \$35.69 below

the minimum clothing standard which has been set up for Mississippi farm families.

The committee appointed to work out minimum clothing budgets for dependent and low income families of New York, allowed in their lowest budget \$17.52 for clothing for a family consisting of husband, wife, daughter 10 to 16 years, son 10 to 16, and a small child. This budget was planned for families in 1934. The value of this expenditure, with the dollar worth .9054 at that time, would be \$17.46 per family, or an average of \$3.49 per person. For a family of 3.9 persons, the value of this expenditure would amount to \$13.61. Comparing this amount with the value of the amount which was spent per Kansas family of 3.9 persons in 1932, it is noted that the value of clothing expenditures of the Kansas families fell \$27.77 below the value of the minimum clothing standard set up for dependent and low income families of New York, a standard defined as one which allows only for such articles as seem absolutely essential to appear in public.

Seasonal Variation in Clothing Expenditures

The seasonal variation in clothing expenditures among these Kansas farm families is shown in Table 5 and graphically in Figure 6. It was found that the expenditures for

Table 5. Seasonal Variation in Clothing Expenditure.
100 Families, Kansas - 1936.

Average Clothing Expenditure for Family		
	dollars	per cent
Fall	25.39	32.6
Winter	17.53	21.0
Spring	17.65	21.1
Summer	14.16	19.3
Total	73.31	100.0

clothing were considerably larger in the fall than at any other season. Almost a third of the yearly clothing expenditures were made at that time.

Dickens (1931) found that Mississippi farm families bought a little more than one-third of the year's clothing in the fall. The reason which she suggests for this is that the crops are sold in the fall and more cash is available at that time of the year, and also, that winter garments, or the more expensive garments, are generally purchased then.

The Kansas families of this study spent practically the same amounts for clothing in the winter and in the spring. The least proportion of the year's clothing, 19 per cent, was bought in the summer. Dickens also found among Mississippi families that 19 per cent of the clothing expenditures

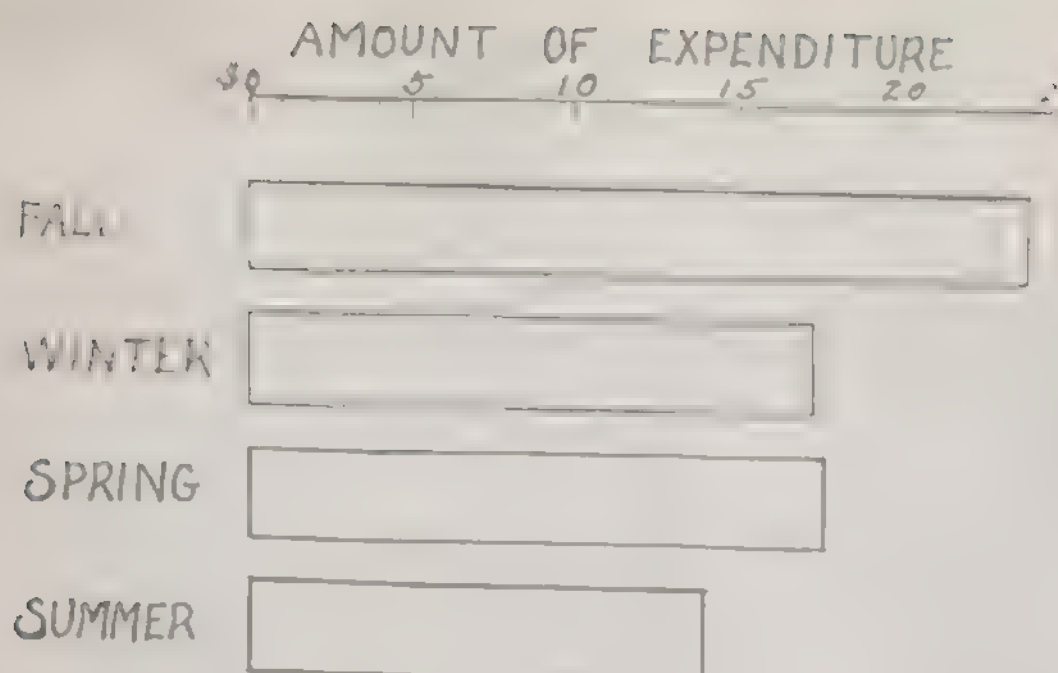


FIGURE 6
AMOUNTS SPENT FOR CLOTHING AT
DIFFERENT SEASONS OF THE YEAR

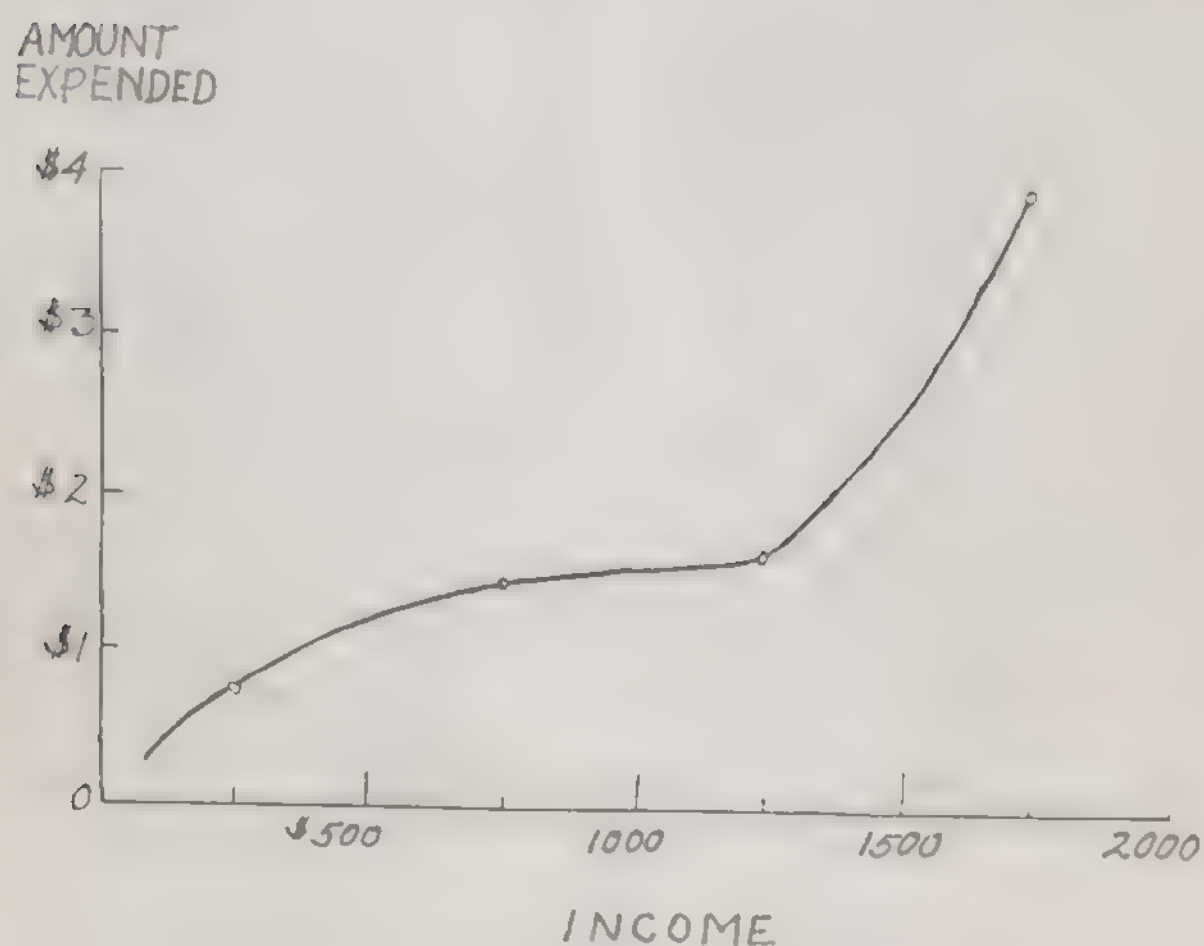


FIGURE 7
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY FOR
SHOE REPAIR AT DIFFERENT INCOME LEVELS

were made in the summer. Likewise the proportions which they spent in the winter and spring were almost the same, with the clothing expenditures in the spring a little in excess of those in the winter.

Average Expenditures for Shoe Repair

Of the clothing expenditures which appeared most frequently in the accounts of the lower income families, those for shoe repair seemed noteworthy. Table 6 gives the average amounts spent for shoe repair per family at the different income levels, with the corresponding proportion of the total clothing expenditures. A graphic representation of these expenditures is shown in Figure 7.

The average amount spent for shoe repair per family was \$1.00, which is 2.1 per cent of the total clothing expenditure. As income increased the amount spent for shoe repair steadily increased. With the exception of the families with incomes between \$1500 and \$1600, the proportion of clothing expenditure spent for shoe repair also increased as income rose. The families of the highest income group spent the largest proportion, 2.7 per cent, for shoe repair. The reason for this is perhaps that the families in that group had more shoes and, since poor people are more or less thrifty, regardless of income, they take good care of their

shoes. The repair for the greater number of shoes bought on this income level would therefore be higher.

Table 6. Average Amount Spent for Shoe Repair per Family in Relation to Total Income and Total Clothing Expenditure. 100 Families, Kansas - 1932.

Income Group	Average Clothing Expenditure	Number of Families in Group	Average Size of Family	Average for Shoe Repair per Family	Proportion of Clothing Expenditure Spent for Shoe Repair
Below 500	40.18	10	3.1	.75	1.85
500 - 1000	55.41	37	3.5	1.40	2.51
1000 - 1500	106.79	26	4.2	1.80	1.68
Over 1500	142.66	7	4.4	3.35	2.71
All Groups	75.73	100	3.9	1.25	2.15

Comparison of Clothing Expenditures of 1932, 1931, and 1924

Since 1932 was a year of severe economic depression it seems reasonable that clothing expenditures would be lower than in more prosperous years because the clothing budget is more flexible than either food or household operation costs. Table 7 shows the average clothing expenditure per family and the actual value of that expenditure in relation to the farmer's clothing dollar in 1932, 1931, and 1924. As has been previously observed, the average clothing expenditure of the Kansas farm families studied was \$73.33 in 1932 for a family of 3.9 persons. The figures obtained from account books kept by Kansas farm families in 1931 indicate that the average clothing expenditure per family of 4.1 members was \$103.49 in 1931. Kirkpatrick found that the average clothing expenditure of the Kansas farm families which he studied in 1924 was \$200.90 per family of 4.4 persons.

The value of the farmer's clothing dollar for different commodities is found by means of index numbers. An index of 114.9 for clothing in 1932 means that the same clothing bought in that year cost 14.9 per cent more than one would have paid for it during the years 1910-1914; or the dollar spent in 1932 for clothing would buy \$0.87 of value in comparison with \$1.00 in 1910-1914.

Table 7. Average Value of Clothing Expenditure per Family in Relation to the Farmer's Clothing Dollar in 1933, 1931, and 1934.

	Year		
	1933	1931	1934
Average Clothing Expenditure per Family	\$73.33	\$102.97	\$90.00
Average Size of Family	3.3	4.1	3.4
Value of Farmer's Clothing Dollar	.27	.70	.34
Value of Clothing Expenditure per Family	\$3.34	\$70.23	\$10.00
Value of Clothing Expenditure per Family of 1.0 persons	\$3.34	\$70.23	\$10.00

Table 6 shows that the decrease in clothing expenditures from 1931 to 1932 was \$38.99, or 52.7 per cent; and the decrease in clothing expenditures from 1934 to 1932 was \$127.50 or 65.3 per cent. Considering that the value of the dollar increased \$0.17 or 24.3 per cent from 1931 to 1932, and \$0.53 or 61.1 per cent from 1934 to 1932, it may be recognized that the actual decrease in clothing expenditures in 1932 was not so great as the above figures would indicate.

Table 7 shows that the dollar was worth \$0.87 in 1932, \$0.70 in 1931, and \$0.94 in 1934. This would make the clothing expenditures actually worth \$65.84 in 1932 for a family of 5.9 persons; \$76.83 for a family of 4.1 persons in 1931; and \$108.40 for a family of 4.4 persons in 1934. Eliminating the factor of difference in size of family, the actual value of clothing expenditures for a family averaging 5.3 persons was \$73.34 in 1932, \$78.54 in 1931, and \$96.17 in 1934. With the expenditures for each of the years thus put on the same basis of comparison it is observed in Table 8 that the value of clothing expenditures decreased \$5.20 or 12 per cent from 1931 to 1932; and \$62.83 or 53.6 per cent from 1934 to 1932. The decrease in clothing expenditures from 1934 to 1932 and their decrease in value is shown graphically in Figure 8. The relation of these two curves to each other indicates that

Table 8. Decrease in Clothing Expenditures from 1924 and 1931 to 1932.

	From		From	
	1931 to 1932		1924 to 1932	
	dollars	per cent	dollars	per cent
Decrease in Expenditure per Family	\$35.59	32.7%	\$127.52	63.5%
Increase in Value of the Clothing Dollar	.17	24.5%	.35	61.1%
Decrease in Value of Expenditure for Family of 3.9 Persons	\$3.70	12.0%	\$22.33	33.0%

the changing value of the dollar is an important factor to be considered when comparing clothing expenditures from year to year.

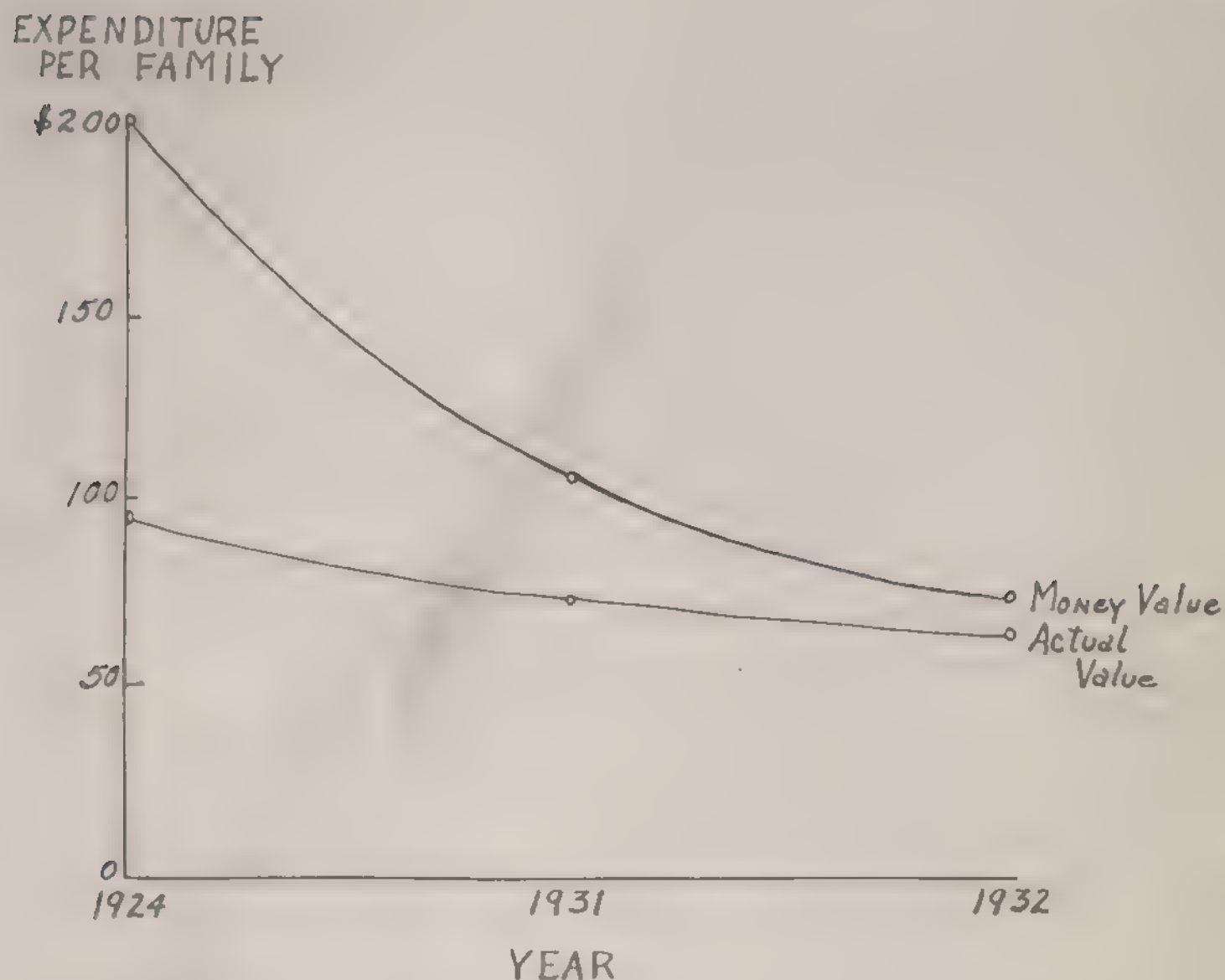


FIGURE 8

AVERAGE CLOTHING EXPENDITURE PER
FAMILY AND ACTUAL VALUE OF SUCH
EXPENDITURE IN 1924, 1931, AND 1932.
(FAMILY OF 3.9 PERSONS)

Proportion of Home Living Spent for Clothing
in 1932, 1931, and 1934

Table 9 shows a comparison of the average proportions of home living expenditures represented by clothing in 1932, 1931, and 1934. The expenditures for clothing amounted to 13.9 per cent of the home living expenditures in 1932, 13.07 per cent in 1931, and 13.4 per cent in 1934. This shows that regardless of economic conditions the proportion of home living expenditures devoted to clothing remains practically the same.

Table 9. Comparison of Average Proportions of Home Living Expenditures Represented by Clothing in 1932, 1931, and 1934.

Year	Average Clothing Expenditure	Average Expenditure for Home Living per Family	Proportion of Home Living Spent for Clothing
1932	\$73.23	\$524.43	13.95
1931	\$103.97	\$783.77	13.07
1934	\$200.90	\$1492.10	13.46

SUMMARY

The noteworthy points brought out in the study of clothing expenditures of 100 Kansas farm families are given below.

Sixty-seven per cent of the families had a yearly income of less than \$1,000. The average size of the family was 5.9 persons and the average age of the children was 10 years. As income increased the size of the family and ages of the children increased up to the highest income level, when they showed a decrease.

The average yearly clothing expenditures per family was \$78.50 or 14.9 per cent of the total expenditures for home living. The average clothing expenditure per person was \$10.37 or 5.6 per cent of the total home living expenditures.

Clothing expenditures did not keep pace with increase in income. The smallest proportion of home living spent for clothing, 10.15 per cent, was in the lowest income group, and the largest proportion, 10.65 per cent, was in the highest income group.

For the entire group studied, the husband's clothing expenditures averaged \$19.31 or 25.3 per cent of the family clothing expenditures; the wives spent an average of \$26.31

or 54.4 per cent; and the children averaged \$33.86 or 59.3 per cent. Comparison of this distribution of clothing expenditures with that of other studies among families of various sizes indicates that the size of the family greatly affects the distribution of clothing expenditures among family members. As the size of the family and age of children increased, the proportion of the total clothing cost for wives steadily decreased and the proportion spent for the children showed a decided increase. The wife's clothing expenditures were considerably more flexible than the husband's with changes in income, size of family, and age of children.

Of the various family members, the daughters and sons over 10 years of age spent more for clothing than any other member. At the lowest age levels the boys' clothing expenditures were greater than the girls', but as age increased the girls' clothing expenditures increased more rapidly so that beyond 11 years they exceeded the boys' clothing expenditures.

Daughters over 10 years of age spent more for headwear, outerwear, and miscellaneous items of clothing than any other family member, and the wives spent the most for underwear and footwear.

About half of the clothing expenditures per family were for outerwear, about one-third for footwear, with the rest

divided between underwear, headwear, and miscellaneous items of clothing.

With allowances made for the changing value of the dollar and difference in size of family, the value of the clothing expenditures of the Kansas farm families studied fell \$33.33 below the minimum clothing standard which was set up for Mississippi farm families, and \$37.77 below the minimum clothing standard set up for low income families of New York.

Almost a third of the clothing expenditures of these families were made in the fall. The least proportion of the year's clothing was bought in the summer. The proportion of the clothing expenditures made in the winter was 24 per cent which was practically the same as the proportion spent in the spring.

The average amount which these families spent for shoe repair was \$1.35 or 3.1 per cent of the total clothing expenditure. The families on the highest income level spent the largest proportion for shoe repair and those on the lowest income level spent the least proportion.

From 1931 to 1933 clothing expenditures decreased 33.7 per cent and from 1934 to 1935 they decreased 65.3 per cent. With allowance made for the changing value of the farmer's clothing dollar and for difference in size of family, the

value of clothing expenditures actually decreased 12 per cent from 1931 to 1932, and 33.6 per cent from 1924 to 1932.

In 1924, 1931, and 1932 the proportion of home living expenditures represented by clothing remained practically the same.

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